

Message Text

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ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5575

S E C R E T DAMASCUS 5033

NODIS

FOR SISCO FROM ATHERTON

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SA, IR, EG, US

SUBJ: SAUDI AND IRANIAN TRAINING OF EGYPTIAN PILOTS

REF: STATE 294669 (ACTION MEMORANDUM S/S NO. 7524612)

1. AS YOU KNOW, SECRETARY APPROVED RECOMMENDATION IN REFTEL THAT WE INFORM EGYPTIANS, SAUDIS AND IRANIANS THAT WE CANNOT CONCUR IN CONTINUATION OF SAUDI F-5 TRAINING PROGRAM FOR EGYPTIAN PILOTS OR IN ESTABLISHMENT OF SIMILAR PROGRAM IN IRAN. RATHER THAN INSTRUCTING EMBASSIES CAIRO AND JIDDA TO DO THIS, HE HAS AUTHORIZED ME DOING IT WITH EGYPTIANS AND SAUDIS ON CURRENT TRIP. SINCE I WILL BE SEEING SAUDIS FIRST, THERE IS A CHANCE THAT EGYPTIANS MAY HEAR ABOUT IT BEFORE I HAVE A CHANCE TO TELL THEM IN CAIRO. IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, I BELIEVE WE SHOULD ALERT HERMANN EILTS AND DICK HELMS IN GENERAL TERMS THAT I WILL BE RAISING THIS SUBJECT IN CAIRO, AND THAT INSTRUCTION SHOULD GO TO TEHRAN FOR HELMS TO TELL IRANIANS ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21, WHICH IS THE DAY I WILL BE TELLING THE EGYPTIANS, HAVING TOLD SAUDIS PREVIOUS DAY.

2. IF YOU AGREE, I SUGGEST THAT FOLLOWING MESSAGE BE SENT BY DEPARTMENT TO CAIRO AND TEHRAN FOR ACTION, INFO JIDDA.

3. BEGIN MESSAGE:

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ACTION: AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

FOR AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, US, EG, SA, IR
SUBJ: IRANIAN AND SAUDI TRAINING OF EGYPTIAN PILOTS

REF: JIDDA 8048, TEHRAN 12015

1. REFTELS REPORT CURRENT SAUDI F-5 TRAINING PROGRAM FOR EGYPTIAN PILOTS AND DESIRE OF IRAN TO INSTITUTE SIMILAR PROGRAM FOR EGYPTIANS. SECRETARY HAS INSTRUCTED ATHERTON, DURING HIS FORTHCOMING VISIT TO SAUDI ARABIA DEC 19-20 AND CAIRO DEC 21 TO INFORM THOSE GOVERNMENTS THAT WE CANNOT CONCUR IN THESE PROGRAMS AND WHY WE BELIEVE IT IS BETTER FOR BOTH THEIR AND OUR LONG-TERM OBJECTIVES THAT THE SAUDI PROGRAM BE DISCONTINUED AND THE PROPOSED IRANIAN PROGRAM NOT GO FORWARD AT THIS TIME. DEPARTMENT WILL SEND INSTRUCTIONS TO TEHRAN CONTAINING TALKING POINTS FOR INFORMING IRANIANS ON SUNDAY, DEC 21, BUT WE WANTED AMBASSADOR EILTS AND HELMS TO HAVE THIS ADVANCE WORD SO THEY WILL BE FOREWARNED IN THE EVENT EGYPTIANS AND IRANIANS HEAR OF IT FROM SAUDIS BEFORE WE MAKE OUR APPROACH. END MESSAGE.

3. ACTION REQUESTED:

A. TRANSMITTAL OF FOREGOING INSTRUCTION TO CAIRO AND TEHRAN, INFO JIDDA.

B. DEPARTMENT REPEAT TO CAIRO JIDDA'S 8048 IF THIS HAS NOT ALREADY BEEN DONE.

C. DEPARTMENT SEND INSTRUCTION TO TEHRAN BEFORE DECEMBER 21 BASED ON DRAFT MESSAGE CONTAINED IN STATE 294669.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY TRAINING, MILITARY PERSONNEL, TEXT, AIRCRAFT PILOTS, DEPARTMENTAL COMMUNICATIONS, CAT-C
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 DEC 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MartinML
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975DAMASC05033
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: P850104-1652
From: DAMASCUS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751233/aaaabcks.tel
Line Count: 107
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: 75 STATE 294669
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MartinML
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 31 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <31 JUL 2003 by WorrelSW>; APPROVED <26 NOV 2003 by MartinML>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SAUDI AND IRANIAN TRAINING OF EGYPTIAN PILOTS
TAGS: PFOR, PEPR, SA, IR, EG, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006